Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph **[0008]** with the following amended paragraph:

[0008] A method and apparatus for scalable handling of communications with varying numbers of participants over a telephone interface is described. The approach treats the different ~~participants~~ participants' recorded communications as part of a larger asynchronous communication and provides a serializing (voice) user interface for participating in the conversation. This can be used to provide services ranging from phone-based discussion boards to more orderly teleconferences. Features may include moderation of comments, automatic removal of comments, and/or other features tailored to the specific use of the serializing approach.

Please replace paragraph **[0026]** with the following amended paragraph:

[0026] The following lists the elements of Figure 2 and describes their interconnections. Figure 2 includes the telephone 100A, a telephone network 204, a telephone gateway 207, a phone application platform 210, [[a]] VoiceXML browsers and supporting servers 212, a network 222, an application provider platform 220, [[a]] web servers 223, and the audio repository 104. The telephone 100A is coupled in communication with the telephone network ~~104~~ 204. The telephone network 204 is coupled in communication with the telephone gateway

207. The telephone gateway 207 is coupled in communication with the phone application

platform 210. The network 222 is coupled in communication with the phone application

platform 210 and the application provider platform 220.

Please replace paragraph **[0028]** with the following amended paragraph:

[0028] The telephone network 204 may be the public switched telephone network (PSTN)

and/or some other type of telephone network. For example, some embodiments of the

invention may allow users with a voice over Internet Protocol (IP) phone to access the phone

application platform ~~110~~ 210. The telephone network 204 is coupled to the telephone gateway

207 that allows voice communications and/or touch-tone signals from the telephone network

204 to reach the phone application platform 210 in usable form. Similarly, the telephone

gateway 207 allows audio signals generated by the phone application platform 210 to be sent

over the telephone network 204 to respective telephones, e.g. the telephone 100A. The

telephone network 204 generally represents an audio signal carrying network.

Please replace paragraph **[0029]** with the following amended paragraph:

[0029] The phone application platform 210 is comprised of one or more computers providing

the VoiceXML browsers and supporting servers 212. (In this embodiment, VoiceXML is one

of the implementation languages.) The particular configuration shown is designed support

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outsourced, or hosted, telephony provisioning as seen by the separation of the application provider platform 220 from the phone application platform 210. This allows the phone services to be provided by a different legal entity than the application. The implementation can be stored for access to the program via the web servers 223 using the HTTP protocol over the network 222 (the network 222 can be the Internet, a private network an extranet, a virtual private network, or more generally any data carrying network). Similarly, the audio segments in the audio repository 104 can be accessed across the network using one or more protocols, e.g., HTTP, a streaming media protocol (e.g., Real Audio(TM)), etc. A more detailed description of one possible embodiment of the phone application platform 210 and features for working with audio content see United States Patent No. 6,970,915 Application Serial No. 09/431,002, entitled "Streaming Content Over a Telephone Interface," having inventors Hadi Partovi, et al., filed 01 Nov 1999, and assigned to the assignee of the current application.

Please replace paragraph **[0031]** with the following amended paragraph:

[0031] The implementation will be described with reference to the process flow diagram of Figure 3 which illustrates how a user can participate in a serialized asynchronous communication. Returning briefly to the logical view of Figure 1, the program execution thread threads 102A-D loosely correspond to the state associated with the running applications (both VoiceXML and otherwise) on the phone application platform 210 and the application provider platform 220.

Please replace paragraph **[0045]** with the following amended paragraph:

[0045] In other embodiments, the user can request outbound call notifications with the content of the reply. This could use the approach described in United States Patent Application No. 09/XXX,XXX 09/769,635, entitled "Interactive Callback Notifications," "Method and System for Providing Interactive Telephony Sessions," having inventors Michael J. Cafarella Caferella, et [[et.]] al., filed XX Jan 2001 January 24, 2001. In this configuration, the user leaving a voice segment would (possibly implicitly from their sign-in) provide a calling number where they could be reached and after responses are recorded they would automatically be notified. On or more user interfaces (voice, web) may be provided to allow users to control notification times and numbers tried.